

Scotland County Natural Areas Inventory

SCOTCH MEADOWS BAY COMPLEX

Site Number: 29

Size: 125 acres

Site Significance: Regional

Quadrangle: McColl

Ownership: multiple private

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES: The site contains a degraded example of a clay-based Carolina bay, plus a much larger bay that appears to be peat-based, with pocosin vegetation. The clay-based bay contains several rare plants – the State Threatened and Federal Species of Concern awned meadow-beauty (*Rhexia aristosa*) and the Significantly Rare small-headed marsh elder (*Iva microcephala*), plus a Watch List species. A rare butterfly – King’s hairstreak (*Satyrrium kingi*) – is known from the larger bay.

LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS: This site is located roughly 2.5 miles west of Good News Bay; Stateline Prairie Bay is located roughly 3 miles to the southeast.

SITE DESCRIPTION: This natural area consists of three Carolina bays amid a residential development. The northern bay, hereby called Kerrimur Bay (after the road name to the south) and formerly called Chorus (Kneedeep) Bay, is now a somewhat degraded clay-based Carolina bay, of the Cypress Savanna (Depression Meadow variant) type. Formerly, it ponded water for much of the year, but now it is dry most of the year and contains a middle-aged stand of loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*) in the northern half of the bay. The southern and deeper portion is still treeless – trees such as pond-cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) must have grown in the pond at some time – and covered with dense stands of herbs such as maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*). Other common herbs include the small-headed marsh elder (*Iva microcephala*) and goldenrod (*Solidago microcephala*). The northern and western rim of the bay contains a moderate population of awned meadow-beauty (*Rhexia aristosa*), whereas the Watch List white doll’s-daisy (*Boltonia asteroides*) is fairly common in the southern portion.

A small bay to the southwest of Kerrimur Bay is quite degraded and is cut-over. However, there is a much larger bay to its south, hereby called Carnoustie Bay for the road along its northeastern rim. Unlike Kerrimur Bay, this large bay has a scrubby woods on the northeast side, between the bay and the road; all of the “scrub oak” species are present – turkey (*Quercus laevis*), bluejack (*Q. incana*), scrub post (*Q. margaretta*), and blackjack (*Q. marilandica*). The bay itself contains a mix of scattered loblolly pines and pond pines (*Pinus serotina*), and a dense shrub layer typical of pocosins. It is tentatively considered as the newly “created” Coastal Plain Depression Swamp” natural community. Titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) is quite common, and other pocosin species are present, such as redbay (*Persea palustris*), sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), shining fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), big gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), and sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*). Shrubs of note include honey-cups (*Zenobia pulverulenta*) and clammy azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*). The Significantly Rare King’s hairstreak (*Satyrrium kingi*) butterfly